

NEWS RELEASE

**INDIANA
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT**



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Joseph E. Kernan, Governor

Alan D. Degner, Commissioner

Kernan Awards Grant to Support Workforce Development Efforts in Madison and Grant Counties

Indianapolis, Ind. – Supporting local workforce development efforts, today Gov. Joe Kernan announced a grant to the Madison-Grant Workforce Investment Board.

Awarded through the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, the \$320,034 in Energizing Indiana's Workforce funds will be used to better support and expand upon the Workforce Investment Board's (WIB) existing efforts. The WIB represents Madison and Grant counties.

"We're focused on ways to energize our state's economy at the local level," said Kernan. "The Madison-Grant WIB understands this and is providing the necessary resources to assist local workers. Its efforts will make the entire community more attractive to outside businesses. This not only provides job opportunities for dislocated workers but helps stimulate the economy."

Announced in October of 2003, the one-time grants are designed to encourage the state's WIBs to create stronger links between economic and workforce development. Specifically, the funds are used to support efforts to upgrade the skills of the Hoosier workforce in the four industry sectors: life sciences, advanced manufacturing, high-tech distribution and information technology.

Using the grant, the Madison-Grant WIB will work with Ivy Tech to promote its 'Flagship Institute of Technology, located in Anderson. The institute works to increase businesses economic viability by introducing new technology to improve systems processes. Tuition support for students taking classes in logistics and advanced manufacturing principles and the expansion of WorkKeys, a centerpiece of the Indiana@Work initiative, will also result from the grant.

According to Trudy Umberger, chair of the Madison-Grant WIB, "These new funds will provide the resources we need to begin to assess training needs in four key sectors that the state is targeting for future growth: 21st Century Logistics, Advance Manufacturing, Information Technology, and Life Sciences."

Indiana@Work is comprehensive workforce development plan, announced by the governor in his State-of-the-State address. The program combines the efforts of DWD and the Indiana Department of Commerce in an effort to match jobseekers with companies that have openings. It also provides training funds to businesses, for potential employees who are facing a "skills gap" that could keep them from attaining higher-pay jobs. And, eventually, Indiana@Work will help workers develop "e-resumes" that they can carry with them throughout their careers.

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Madison-Grant WIB/ add 1

Through its various programs and initiatives, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with the state's 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures and operates a statewide job placement service.

For more information on this, or any other DWD program, contact Jeff Harris at 317/232-3396 or visit the web at www.workforce.IN.gov.

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